

More religious groups support CBCP, lash out at Cha-cha

DAR gives in to demand of Luisita workers to help validate beneficiaries



PM Berlusconi's allies dispute results of Italian election

No MRT operations Thursday to Saturday; LRT Thursday to Sunday

22 officials join Gloria in Baguio retreat; 9 abroad



By Vincent Cabrera
PUN: Lucio J. Alcala
BAGUIO CITY—Twenty-two government officials are joining President Arroyo in her five-day Baguio retreat. But one official is still overseas.

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, April 12, 2006 ** 4 sections / Vol. 28 / No. 125 P18 online: www.inquirer.com

President names Davide RP ambassador to the UN

By Philip C. Zubeta
FOREIGN CHIEF JUSTICE HILARIO DAVIDE JR. has a new job: Philippine ambassador to the UN in Nairobi.
In a March 31 letter to the Commission on Appointments, President Arroyo has named Davide to the job. Davide is currently the Philippine ambassador to the UN in Nairobi.

PHOTOGRAPH BY

SPLendor IN THE SUN
Nature trippers will dwell to the 5.5 km Pines-cess St. Paul Underground River Cave in Sabang near Bantayan Waters Park Resort in Palawan. The magical river, caves, lush vegetation and pristine waters make the island a dream destination for survivors of the urban jungle in search of swimming.



Palace giveth, taketh

Approved list of National Artist awardees withdrawn due to lobbying



FERNANDO POE JR.

BEH CASPERA

EDUARDO LUMBERA

FAMON DEUSAN

ILDEFONSO SANTOS

RAINOLD NALIPA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FERNANDO POE JR., "DA KING" TO MILLIONS OF MOVIE fans, is now a National Artist.

Or is he?

Just hours after it seemed an official list of the nation's six distinguished Filipino artists—led by the late actor-director and presidential confidante Poe—who will be conferred the rank and title of Order of National Artist, Manila's city government withdrew the announcement.

"It just means that the process has not been formally completed. Mr. Poe remains a very strong contender," Press Secretary Ignacio Bueve explained as Poe's supporters scrambled over last night to pull out the names from public release claiming that the list was not final and the selection process was still going on.

But Ambeth Ocampo, chair of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) board of commissioners, said he transmitted the list of recommended awardees to the Palace by the NCCA and the Cultural Center of the

Philippines (CCP) three weeks ago. "The process is finished. Six names have been recommended and Manila refused to confirm them," said Ocampo, who added that he had not been informed of the Palace withdrawal of the announcement.

Manila's mayor previously announced that Poe and five other people were being honored for their outstanding contributions to arts and letters—Bernardo L. Lumera (Bantayan), Ramon A. Ocampo (Cebu), Fernando Poe Jr. (Manila), Edgardo M. Serrano (Iloilo), and the late Ramon Valera (Bacolod).

It said the conference was supposed to be held on June 9 in Manila with the CCP holding a tribute to the winning artists in Manila.

Though he declined to be named, Poe said in a text message: "The selection process is still ongoing."

PALACE.A2

Military probes Lim, Querubin in 'secret'

By Dana P. Ramirez

AS IT IS FINALLY BEING covered by public pressure to reveal the results of an internal investigation into alleged military involvement in election cheating, the Armed Forces leadership now appears to be keeping under wraps its probe of two top military officials suspected of involvement in a failed coup attempt in February.

Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, former chief of the Senior Ranger Regiment, and Col. Ariel Querubin, former chief of police command, were on Monday and yesterday brought before an inquiry body headed by Inspector General of Police Adolfo Pineda Lopez to see if they could be charged for their court martial.

Sunday's Col. Querubin, the chief of the AFP public information office, said there was no order to keep the proceedings "under wraps" because the investigation is still ongoing.

MILITARY.A2

Ombudsman urged: Order GMA to face plunder raps

By Philip C. Zubeta and Nathan F. Flores

LOWER FRANKING CHARGE: yesterday asked the Office of the Ombudsman to compel President Arroyo's family and several others to formally answer the plunder charges he filed against them in connection with the P715-million fertilizer scandal.

Chavez said the Ombudsman should now act on the plunder case because both the Senate and the Commission on Audit had backed their investigations and discovered irregularities in the disbursement of the fertilizer funds for the Continuing Hunger Relief Act (CHRA) (the program in 2004).

The fund, originally meant for the purchase of farm inputs, was

'Unless impeached, we can't be replaced'

By Jerome A. Arango and Christine G. Arango

ANY CHANCE FOR A REMAKE OF the Commission on Elections is futile because its chair and commissioners are beyond the reach

of the President. That is what was the intention of Congress, Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. and Manila's mayor said, when they passed the law that created the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) in 1988.

David's recommendation for reform is not a "radical" proposal, he said, but a necessary one to ensure the body's independence and integrity.

David's recommendation for reform is not a "radical" proposal, he said, but a necessary one to ensure the body's independence and integrity. He said the body should be able to investigate and prosecute any official who is involved in election fraud.

for poll commissioners as part of reforms to ensure the credibility of the poll body.

David's recommendation for reform is not a "radical" proposal, he said, but a necessary one to ensure the body's independence and integrity.

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acted by allegations of corruption and involvement in poll cheating.

"Unless we are impeached, we can't be replaced," Abalos told reporters.

LEGISLATION.A2

TV special plants Judas kiss on Catholic Church

By Lito K. Zubeta

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS not hidden from Christians the sin of Judas Iscariot, but it has not been the media have tended to use the controversial writings to forward their own agendas and discredit the Church, a Catholic-led scholar has warned.

"There may be a lot of interest in the Church's role in the University of Santo Tomas. They may be scholars, but they have their own agenda. I am so surprised the

National Geographic is promoting this 'Judas' story."

Apocryphal writings referring to the National Geographic special about the Judas story that is reported on the discovery of the so-called Gospel of Judas, an apocryphal text that some Catholic biblical scholars such as Karl J. Ratzke, who was interviewed in the special, said should confirm the attempt of the early Church fathers to marginalize other Christian groups as a bid to establish the institution of the Church.

"These people are a genuine TV SPECIAL.A2



PUBLIC RELATIONS CHIEF, Sandy Pineda, receives the Grand Anvil Award from Honorable Mayor

Inquirer bags Grand Anvil Award

By Joel V. Nolasco

AMONG THE NUMEROUS awards and citations already bestowed on the Inquirer, PDI recently bagged the Grand Anvil Award and the Anvil Award of Excellence for 2005. The award was given by the Philippine Association of the Press (PAP) at the 41st Anvil Awards in the Manila Hotel.

Called the "Greatest" of public information, the award is given to the best newspaper in the Philippines.

INQUIRER.A2



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Alleged Abu leader who killed US soldier slain

By John S. Wilentz
PHI/Manila Bureau

ORRONGANG CITY—A SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf leader, who landed in Washington's list of terrorists for bombing a boat that included an attack that killed an American serviceman in 2002, and his father were killed during a shootout with authorities in Calicut, southern India early yesterday morning.

Col. Edgar G. Galera, commander of the anti-terror Task Force Detachment, identified the slain suspect as Sulaiman Rajul, also Abu Alotab. The father was identified as Ismail Alotab.

Galera said the slain Rajul was killed when Abu Sayyaf group members opened fire on him and his father as they were in a boat in the waters of Calicut.

Critically wounded

Abu Sayyaf was critically wounded in the 20-minute gunfight which ended with him being rescued as a hospital.

The United States had put a bounty



FILE photo shows suspected Abu Sayyaf leader Sulaiman Rajul, also Abu Alotab. Abu Sayyaf was the alleged mastermind of the Palawan bombing, which a US serviceman was killed.

of \$250,000 on his head and, according to Senior Dep. Asst. Dir. of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, another \$750,000 under the

terror department's reward program.

Galera said Abu Sayyaf and his men were also wanted for crimes after that he belonged to his kidnapping and murder.

Four arrested

Four of Abu Sayyaf's companions were arrested. They were identified as Ismail Ismail Ismail, Ismail Ismail Ismail, Ismail Ismail Ismail, Ismail Ismail Ismail. They were brought to the military's Southern Command headquarters for interrogation.

Soldiers said government security forces also recovered two .45 and .380, a rifle, a phone, a laptop and documents from the Abu Sayyaf safe house.

Finally restrained

"Finally we restrained the leader of Abu Sayyaf in a small group of the Abu Sayyaf and we have prevented a much wider scale of terrorist attack in the peninsula," he told the bureau.

Galera said the death of Abu Sayyaf and the "restraint" of his group

was an effort by "American justice."

No foreigners involved

The foreign troops were involved that were present in the Philippines for almost two years," he said.

Galera said Abu Sayyaf was wanted for two bomb attacks at the Zamboanga shopping mall here on Dec. 13, 2004, that claimed several lives, another bombing at the Fort Pilar Mosque (Nov. 2004), as well as the 2002 kidnapping of 53 students and teachers at a Roman Catholic school in nearby Basilan Island.

Cafe bombing

Abu Sayyaf's group was also believed to be responsible for the bombing of a cafe near the group of the military's Camp Aguinaldo in Baguio, Benguet, which killed five people, including Sgt. Mark Johnson, an American soldier. Four others, including another US service member, were wounded in the attack.

The Abu Sayyaf thought to

control more than 100 military, but have been killed for the second time in attacks in the country, including the kidnapping of a passenger ferry on Manila Bay in February 2004 that claimed more than 100 lives, and the kidnapping of 53 students and teachers at a Roman Catholic school in nearby Basilan Island.

Links to networks

He and Filipino confederates who have been linked to Abu Sayyaf group in the regional militant network, known as the Abu Sayyaf and the Abu Sayyaf group.

Galera said, two suspected Abu Sayyaf leaders were killed during a clash with government security forces in Basilan Island here, with reports from the military, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER.

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Controversial officer among 8 promoted

By Leigh A. del Peralta

THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION has approved the promotion of eight police officers, including a seasoned assassin who helped solve one of the country's most sensational murder cases last

year whose worth a regional lieutenant general was not in doubt. The promotions are subject to approval by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The promotion of Chief Supt. Juan Antonio, director of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, signals the restoration of his superior's confidence in him following the escape of former President Al-Ghori and two other alleged terrorists from a heavily guarded detention center in Camp Crame three years ago.

Raid Day bombing

Al-Ghori, an Indonesian, had admitted involvement in the 2000 Raid Day bombing in Manila in which 14 people were killed and 30 others wounded. Antonio was chief of the PNP's Intelligence Group when Al-Ghori escaped from its custody.

Apur from Iloilo, who will become regional director, also appeared for promotion in the rank of division chief. He is from Iloilo, deputy regional director of the Iloilo Division Office, and Chief Supt. Ismael Reyes, chief of the Iloilo Division Office, also appeared for promotion.

Other senior superintendents who will become chief superintendents include

Enrico B. Regional Director of the Iloilo Division Office for Iloilo and Zamboanga, and Director of the Iloilo Division Office for Iloilo and Zamboanga, and Director of the Iloilo Division Office for Iloilo and Zamboanga.

Special promotion

Antonio was granted a special promotion for having successfully captured a terrorist in Cebu province, where he learned as police chief, the Philippine National Police.

The Department also approved the hiring of 241 retired criminologists who will join the force with the rank of police inspector.

A presidential fact finding inquiry had cleared Antonio of charges of collusion in the escape of Al-Ghori and his two companions. The probe blamed the escape on the incompetence of the guards and officers in the rifle barracks and recommended the firing of 11 retired chief police officers.

Antonio is credited with solving the sensational 1997 rape and murder of Aban Ismael and his friend Aban Ismael who were sexually abused by Mayor Antonio Sanchez of Cebu, Lapu-Lapu, in prison at the city's maximum.

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Still no trace of 11 missing off Palawan

RETRACING THE MISSING PERSONS OF 11 PEOPLE reported missing in a boat in Palawan in a boat nearly two weeks ago, the Philippine Coast Guard said.

Spokesperson Lt. Commander Joseph Galera said that as of yesterday the POC was still on search and rescue mode but the missing people who left San Jose, Orinaga Island, on March 30, at a small boat and were headed for Cebu, Palawan.

The 11 consisted of eight employees of M4 Construction and Maintenance Services Inc. and three crewmembers of the boat. M4 is a contractor of the telecommunications firm Inet Communications Inc.

Galera said that, so far, no data has been set for ending the search.

"It would depend on those supervising the search and rescue operations," he said.

He said there was still a chance of finding the missing people alive, saying that in past operations the POC was able to find people who had been in a small boat for days.

Galera said M4 Construction has denied claiming that its employees had been kidnapped.

He said he spoke with the president of M4 Construction, who told him the boat was headed for Cebu, Palawan, by plane to Cebu.

Galera, speaking through a press conference, said the 11 people had been the employees of M4 Construction.

"We have not received any report of a kidnapping, if there had been a kidnapping, somebody should have received a ransom demand," he said.

Leigh A. del Peralta

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CARP door opened for Luisita workers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—DEPARTMENT OF Agrarian Reform officials in Central Luzon on Tuesday agreed to the demand of Hacienda Luisita workers to be involved in the redistribution of potential beneficiaries of lands within the sugar estate.

Three leaders of the United Lateral Workers Union (ULWU), representing over 2,000 workers of the Company, landed near entry in Tarlac, directed the agreement during a three-hour

and five interviews are being copies and officials of HLRG. The group's officials are also ready many of whom are part of the management or in the Company, and River Galing, 38, is a member.

The lands are scheduled for distribution in 2000. The group's officials are also ready many of whom are part of the management or in the Company, and River Galing, 38, is a member.

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3 gov't men killed as NPA rebels raid outpost

MANILA CITY—TWO MILITARY and a civilian were killed when dozens of communist rebels stormed an Army detachment in Sorsogon, Luzon, in a bloody battle on Tuesday.

The attack was the second in Sorsogon in less than a month.

On March 28, rebels also killed two police officers in Sorsogon and took several hostages, including hostages.

Col. Roberto Garcia, commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Brigade, said the rebels were caught by surprise when the guerrillas ambushed them at about 4:30 a.m. "We were sleeping soundly when they attacked the unit," he said.

Garcia said during the fight, a military and a civilian died in the process. The civilian died from a gunshot wound caused by the rebels. The rebels also killed two police officers in Sorsogon and took several hostages, including hostages.

"It's a great loss," Garcia said. "The Philippine Air Force is now sending reinforcements, after the incident, it will not be in a normal state."

Officials of the Southern Command and soldiers are pursuing the guerrillas. The NPA in Sorsogon has been active in a military chain, as evidenced in last week's clash in Sorsogon City. Col. Francisco Alarcon, commander of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, said the NPA's attack on the 3rd Infantry Brigade was the first in the area. "We are now sending reinforcements, after the incident, it will not be in a normal state."



WHERE ALL ROADS LEAD TO
A church in Marikina City, Luzon, is the site of a clash between the NPA and the Philippine Army. The church is the site of a clash between the NPA and the Philippine Army.

Catanduanes college closer to becoming state university

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has approved on third and final reading a bill approving the creation of Catanduanes State University.

Under House Bill No. 4615, authored by Rep. Joseph Lina, the bill would create the Catanduanes State University, a state university in Catanduanes.

The bill would be the country's third state university and would be the first in the region. It would have a total of 100,000 students and would be the first in the region.

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NBI probe awaited on fish scare in Sorsogon

MANILA CITY—OFFICIALS ARE awaiting the start of the investigation on the fish scare in Sorsogon, Luzon, that is spreading fear among the people.

The NBI has not yet started the investigation. The NBI has not yet started the investigation. The NBI has not yet started the investigation.

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Prodi claims victory in Italy poll

ROME—Center-left leader Romano Prodi claimed a tight-edge victory in Italy's general election on Tuesday, but Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi after claimed the result and dominated a review of the count.

"Believe me... I don't believe in a page," Prodi said a rally to a Rome square about 12 hours after the poll closed.

"The country is divided... it was a very difficult battle, and the last minute we were on the edge of the race but we did it and victory is ours," said Prodi, the former European Commis-

sion president.

Official data showed that in the lower house Chamber of Deputies Prodi's center-left had taken about 49.96 percent of the vote compared with 48.73 percent for Berlusconi. Prodi's winning margin was around 15,000 votes, a tiny fraction of Italy's 47 million eligible voters.

"United" centers, "Black and Pink" and "Left down the Middle" were the headlines used to unite main stream newspapers to describe the vote, also almost identical to another Italian

The election result revealed deep splits in the heart of Italian society and raised doubts over whether the country could be governed effectively.

Under Italy's new electoral system, the ballot winners are automatically granted 248 of the lower house's 630 seats so neither house could elect more than 382 members.

Center-right politicians said the vote was too close, with up to a half a million spoils and undecided voters. Counting for the upper house house was also far from complete, they said.

"That has not reached 90 percent of the lower house (and the margin is under 25,000 votes, with a tiny difference), you can't have a responsible thinking of the counting and tally sheets..." Prodi's opponent, Berlusconi's right-hand man, told reporters in the early morning hours.

It was unclear if the split ballots could unlock political chaos in Italy, evoking the 2000 US presidential election, which ended in a bitter contest between two presidents.

But national leaders had not yet come to a decision on the results.



Prodi's victory was celebrated in Rome early April 11.

Hamas: Israeli moves a declaration of war



WOUNDED child is rushed to hospital after a Hamas rocket hit Israeli border in Gaza April 10.

GAZA—ISRAELI SUPPLEMENTED security for the Palestinian government on Monday to what Hamas said constituted a "declaration of war."

European Union foreign ministers added to US and Israeli pressure on the Hamas militant group by approving a temporary halt in direct EU aid to the new government.

Thousands of Palestinian gathered onto the streets of Gaza, protesting Western aid cuts and a spike in Israeli military action days after Israel's recent Hamas took control of the Palestinian authority in late March.

An Israeli child killed in a rocket launched by Hamas and injured 22 others, including two children, when it hit a house in the northern Gaza town, Palestinian officials said.

Israel says the shooting in Gaza is meant to counter Israeli attacks by militants.

But Israeli, a top official to meet in Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, said Israel had shot a ground assault of Gaza could not be ruled out. Reuters



YUMMY BAIT PRICED

London's most expensive sandwiches sold at Selfridges in London April 10. The sandwiches, on sale for 15 pounds (\$148), consisted of Wagyu beef, freshwater fish, goat, black truffle, mushrooms, leeks, dill, cream, chicken, and pepper and mustard (left) and English plum tomatoes.

Rainiest March threatens floods in California

SAN FRANCISCO—GOV. ARNOLD Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in seven northern and central California counties, citing the record rainfall March 30, which could cause rain on the bottom of the mountain to cause flooding.

Many warnings in California's Central Valley are pointing at full capacity, and at least 10 more days of rain are forecast for the region.

Lower rainfall was typically seen in the winter, when water levels in the state's major river were still high. It is in low ground, but rain water could cause the heavy rain could weaken some levees to the point of failure. They took advantage of a weekend break in the storm to pump water back into the system and some will be closed.

"The eye in New Orleans the storm was coming in, it was known days ahead, and we're not sure they took all the steps that they could have," said Governor Schwarzenegger.

Schwarzenegger had already declared a state of emergency for California levees system in February, a day that flooded up to \$100 million for repairs to 24 flood-prone areas.

His new declaration Monday did not specify as much as the last one, but it did specify that the state's levee system would be closed.

French students to press on despite gov't cave-in

PARIS—FRENCH STUDENTS, MOVING to President Jacques Chirac's outdoor school on a rainy day of protest Tuesday to try to get rid of other government actions.

Students declared victory on Monday after Chirac's dropped the measure that had forced universities to close, and that had forced high schools and universities

and closed the government. Enraged students decided to go ahead with the day of action to sign their own measure to the garbage heap.

In an announcement that occurred in a broadcasting station of debate, French Minister Dominique de Villepin said on national TV that the government would be replaced.

Dahil mga 13,385 linya ang kakantahin mo.

Kahit sa hirap, masarap.

PASIONG MAHAL

NISSIN

Ngyang Semana Sapa, mag-sarap na. Handog ng Nissin.



PROTESTERS rally in Washington along the National Mall for immigrant rights April 10.

The World

Editor: Lorraine B. Glavin

Proimmigration rallies continue to sweep US

NEW YORK—HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF people demanding US citizenship for illegal immigrants took to the streets in dozens of cities from New York to San Diego in some of the most widespread demonstrations since the mass protests began around the country last month.

Rallies took place Monday in communities of all sizes, from a gathering of at least 50,000 people in Atlanta to one involving 3,000 people in the housing town of Garden City, Kansas, which has more than 30,000 residents.

Protesters took to the streets in New York City last night with slogans such as "We are Americans," "Immigrant Values are America's Values," and "Together, We're Stronger."

Immigrants in Italy and in other parts of 31 million illegal immigrants with legal status in the United States. A bill passed by the House would crack down on illegal immigrants and strengthen the nation's border with Mexico. A border overhaul of immigration law would not be passed for years.



A BEYOND TRAFFIC rally in San Francisco, Calif. April 10.

SEPT. 11 TRIAL Terror on 99th floor



SEPT. 11 TRIAL: The World Trade Center site in New York City.

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA—THE defense denied a new charge on a subpoena as it was questioned by the collapsing World Trade Center tower on Sept. 11, 2001, when the 110-story tower, known as the World Trade Center, was hit by a hijacked airplane. The defense also denied a charge that the tower was hit by a hijacked airplane.



RESCUE workers and police at the site of a fire at an Indian fair in India April 10.

Blaze at Indian fair kills 51

MUMBAI, INDIA—A MAJOR fire broke out at a city in Mumbai, India, on Sunday, killing 51 people and injuring more than 200.

The fire broke out at a fair in the city of Mumbai, India, on Sunday, killing 51 people and injuring more than 200.

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Oil prices inch closer to \$70

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES INCHED closer to \$70 a barrel in Asia and Europe on Tuesday, as reports of a possible US oil supply cut pushed prices higher.

Oil prices inched closer to \$70 a barrel in Asia and Europe on Tuesday, as reports of a possible US oil supply cut pushed prices higher.

Possible US strike on Iran seen fraught with risks

WASHINGTON—THE ARABIAN League of US President George W. Bush would likely spark a crisis and a possible conflict should it strike Iran over its nuclear program.

The Arab League of US President George W. Bush would likely spark a crisis and a possible conflict should it strike Iran over its nuclear program.

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HYUNDAI KAIBIGAN SA DAAN YEAR 4

This summer from April 12-15, 2006, for your Thrills at Hyundai Auto Resources, Inc. (HARI) select a helping hand as you can enjoy fun-filled and exciting virtual adventures across the northern and southern parts of Luzon.

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Drive your way

Tiger returns home to care for ailing father



WOODS

ARIZONA, GEORGIA—WITH THE ST. MAURICE hotel in his mind, Tiger Woods returned home to meet his father, Earl, who is ailing, to help him with his business in Arizona—the father of the future star.

Woods, 20, had just flown to California to play a tournament and he began to feel a little sick. He had just flown to California to play a tournament and he began to feel a little sick.

Although Woods downplayed the report that he is ailing, he is in the hospital in Arizona.

For world number one and recently approved induction during his great career, Woods is in the hospital in Arizona to care for his ailing father.

In fact, the 20th Woods was still in the hospital in Arizona to care for his ailing father.

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Roddick takes shot at clay title

LOS ANGELES—ANDY RODDICK, who won two singles titles at the U.S. Open, is looking to win the Davis Cup doubles title in the U.S. Open.

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12th-ranked Chipper's team (left) won the doubles match of the Davis Cup doubles title in the U.S. Open.

Roddick is looking to win the Davis Cup doubles title in the U.S. Open.

Roddick is looking to win the Davis Cup doubles title in the U.S. Open.

76ers stay on hunt as Iverson delivers

NEW YORK—ALLAN IVERSON led the Philadelphia 76ers to a 91-80 victory over the Washington Wizards on Monday.

Iverson led the 76ers to a 91-80 victory over the Washington Wizards on Monday.

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Pasuc National Olympics open Monday

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF GOLFERS and the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) will host the Pasuc National Olympics on Monday.

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Elorde beats Pacquiao in two crucial tests

THE PORT OF CALCUTTA, INDIA—ELORDE, who won two titles in the U.S. Open, is looking to win the Davis Cup doubles title in the U.S. Open.

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2 RP teams join WAITGC leg in Sabah

TWO TEAMS FROM THE PHILIPPINES will join the second of an ongoing series of the World Association of Tennis (WAITGC) leg in Sabah.

The WAITGC leg in Sabah will be held in Sabah.

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LAKBAY ALALAY 2006

Motorists' friend on the road

By Markel D. Solares

ROAD TRAVELING OUTSIDE OF METRO Manila are at its busiest during Holy Week when families and friends go on vacation. The volume of vehicles doubles during this time of the year.

Petron Corp. has provided motorists with an unparalleled comprehensive roadside assistance for the past 20 years, Lakbay Alalay 2006 is gearing up for yet another opportunity to help motorists and travelers plying the major expressways.

Petron's Lakbay Alalay is a pioneering roadside assistance program of the oil company which officially began in 1986. However, the idea was actually conceptualized and im-

plemented years earlier.

"People already knew about Lakbay and they look forward to seeing us on the road," said Steven Aragon, training officer in Petron's Trade of Service Corp. "People have learned to trust us and our partners during this time."

Companies were an important stakeholder in case of emergency and medical assistance. Lakbay Motor camps are seen exclusively in North Luzon Expressway (NLEx), South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), and Star Highway. Its major stations in these areas also serve as Emergency Centers and offer the same services with charge.

Together with its partners which have in-

Lakbay Alalay 2006 is gearing up for yet another opportunity to help motorists and travelers plying the major expressways



STEVEN Aragon, training officer in Petron's Trade of Service Corp.



From then
til now.



stead over the years, Lakbay Alalay has expanded its services to motorists and travelers to include first aid kit, emergency phone calls, tire repair facilities, traffic report updates via its radio station partners, towing services and the other services through the motor repair by towing mechanics and especially first aid.

In the NLEx, Lakbay Alalay camp is located at the San Jose Exit. In SLEX, the camp is set up at Alibangbang. The Petron station at the Star Highway will serve as the campaign for the rest of the Holy Week.

To enhance its concern over the safety of motorists especially during this time and to maintain integrity of what good persons in motorist can do, Petron also offers free safety checks of vehicles under their control. The free service is available in participating Petron service stations until April 14 (Easter Sunday). Safety checks include inspection of the vehicle's running condition, tire, brakes, oil, lights, and more.

In this way, motorists, pilgrims, or home-bound travelers are assured of having a comfortable and safe journey to their destinations.

According to Aragon, the motorist's main concern is safe travel has heightened. "If I remember right, during the old NLEx and SLEX, the number of accidents happening is almost negligible."

Nevertheless, the incidents are there at times, but the same problems like cooling, fuel, tire, and brake will occur. This can still be prevented by having the vehicle thoroughly checked before leaving the house.

Lakbay Alalay has welcomed long-time partnerships with other companies which include the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), Traffic Management Center (TMC), Jose Silvestre, PHCC, Skyway Corp., the Bureau of Transportation, and sponsors like Inland Communications, McDonald's, the Philippine National Red Cross, Biorhine Fuel Industries, Boro Automotive, and G.A.

"They partners and sponsors so that we know what we're doing," Aragon said.

Every year, many of the people that are involved in the program, particularly the main leaders, assigned to different camps are already familiar with the size and scope of the program.

"They know what we're doing because we've been doing this for the longest time," he added. "We've reached that point where we can do the program update themselves and small details that basically everybody understands the scope."

Petron employees from different departments have voluntarily volunteered their services every year. More than 100 people help out from the company in the three expressways for the entire four days from Holy Wednesday to Easter Sunday except Good Friday.

"We advocate volunteerism among our employees," Aragon said. "They don't get anything in return and the most they get are a shirt and cap."

"But the joy of having helped another motorist family on the road is something no amount of money can buy," he added. "But, it is our own way of giving back to our nation, and thinking them of their continued trust with us."

Thus, part of this program is not only helping but making safety a priority not only for motorists but also for our own team."

Petron's Lakbay Alalay, having been the best in other such programs, "has become the most comprehensive roadside assistance during Holy Week," said Aragon, who has seen the program grow over the years.

Since 1986, Petron Lakbay Alalay has consistently been plying roadside service to travelers during Holy Week.

Each year, we formed a dedicated volunteer team that takes to assist motorists in offering advice on repairs, fuel and tire emergency phone calls, tire repair and other reports. As we continue our 20th year, more opportunities have been provided along the route check of the vehicle with Petron Expressway and Star Highway with the same emergency assistance to motorists from petron's national plaza of two



ENTERTAINMENT

Start us your favorite regular or special feature (Email)

Editor Enrica G. Velasco

A hero's welcome for Marky Cielo

By Denise Cabala

PDI New South-South Islands

WATKIN, MI. (PHILIPPINES)—MARKY CIELO, "Ultimate survivor" of the "Survivor" reality TV awards on GMA-7, returned to his native province last week and a welcome for a hero.

The 27-year-old Cielo greeted the largely female fans on Palawan where various tribes gathered to celebrate unity and cooperation.

MARKY CIELO



MARKY CIELO, a traditional bawling, but not a Q-winger.

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JUST DANCING \$12.00	SAMBA \$12.00	WE SAVED THE WORLD \$12.00

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Island City, 54, No. 10, 10th Floor

GRAND 1.800 \$12.00	PREMIER \$12.00	EMPIRE \$12.00
THE HILLS HAVE EYES \$12.00	THE HILLS HAVE EYES \$12.00	THE HILLS HAVE EYES \$12.00
JUST DANCING \$12.00	SAMBA \$12.00	WE SAVED THE WORLD \$12.00

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PETE DINKlage

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MOVIE SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA	
1 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN - 24x	8 SHE'S THE MAN
10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
2 ICE AGE 2	7 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
3 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview	8 BANDOLAS
1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
4 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview	9 JUST FRIENDS
1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	10 BASIC INSTINCT 2
1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00

ERMITA	
1 ICE AGE 2	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
2 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview	8 BANDOLAS
10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
3 JUST FRIENDS	9 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview
BASIC INSTINCT 2 1:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE	7 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00

METRO EAST	
1 JUST FRIENDS	8 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview
1:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
2 ICE AGE 2	8 BASIC INSTINCT 2
10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	7 BANDOLAS
10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview	8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00	11:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00

NOVALICHES	
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview
2 BASIC INSTINCT 2	5 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE	6 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview
CITYSQUARE MALABON	
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	1 BANDOLAS
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE	2 ICE AGE 2
3 RESERVE	3 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview
4 RESERVE	4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview

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STA. ROSA	
1 ICE AGE 2	1 ICE AGE 2
2 ULTRAVIOLET	2 VENOM
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	3 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE	4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview	6 FOR VENKETTA
DASMARINAS	
1 ICE AGE 2	1 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview
2 MARY MCGHEE	2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview	3 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE	4 ICE AGE 2
5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	
INUS	
1 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview	1 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview
2 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview	2 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview
3 SHE'S THE MAN	3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	4 ICE AGE 2
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE	5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
	6 ULTRAVIOLET
BAGOLOD	
1 VENOM	1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 SHE'S THE MAN	2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2	3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 KAHOGY DOD	4 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE	5 ICE AGE 2
6 EIGHT BELOW Sneak Preview	6 VENOM

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Marky: I feel the pressure to be a role model for young Igorots

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COVERMAN
SINCE 1978

through traditional means, stage and so on.

Being in the movie business, Marky felt the pressure to be a role model for young Igorots.

"People look up to me," he said.

Residents of Baguio, Marky's hometown, had been waiting for a movie that would represent the Igorots.

Marky's debut film, "The Igorot Movie," was a success. It was a hit in the Philippines and abroad.

Marky's debut film, "The Igorot Movie," was a success. It was a hit in the Philippines and abroad.

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

<p>SHANGHAI CINEMA 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>1. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>2. ICE AGE 2 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>3. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>4. TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p>	<p>FESTIVAL CINEMA 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>1. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>2. ICE AGE 2 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>3. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>4. TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p>	<p>EASTWIND CINEMAS 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>1. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>2. ICE AGE 2 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>3. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>4. TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p>	<p>CHINA 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>1. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>2. ICE AGE 2 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>3. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>4. TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p>	<p>Blue Wave 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>1. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>2. ICE AGE 2 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>3. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>4. TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p>	<p>China 2000 Makati 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>1. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>2. ICE AGE 2 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>3. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>4. TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p>	<p>China 2000 Pasay 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>1. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>2. ICE AGE 2 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>3. THE HILLS HAVE EYES 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>4. TRISTAN AND ISOLDE Sneak Preview 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p>	<p>China 2000 Cinemas 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:00</p> <p>1. 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POXTROT



POXTROT BY BILL AMEND

EVIL KONG



EVIL KONG BY A. OPEN

POKEO



POKEO BY TOM HARTUNG

PUSSY-BERRY



PUSSY-BERRY BY RYAN JONES

BARTILLAS



BARTILLAS BY JEFF SCOTT

MUTTS



MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

ATOMO AND MEATY



ATOMO AND MEATY BY GARY HALLIWELL

DAVIE COMEDY



DAVIE COMEDY BY TIM WAIN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS ORANGE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Cancer (June 21 to July 20) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Leo (July 21 to Aug. 10) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Virgo (Aug. 11 to Sept. 22) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Libra (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

Pisces (Feb. 19 to March 20) — You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge. You're a natural leader, and you're not afraid to take charge.

DAILY CROSSWORD

BY FRANCIS ORANGE

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OPENS APRIL 15

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT IT. YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT IT. NOW, WITNESS THE DEVASTATING IRAQ WAR AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

TRAPPED BEHIND
ENEMY LINES.

A WAR FIGHT
WITHOUT RULES.



BASED ON REAL EVENTS.
**AMERICAN
SOLDIERS**
DATELINE: IRAQ

THE FIRST HOLLYWOOD WAR FILM SHOT IN IRAQ

AA

ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 12, 2006

Has Sandara lost her grip?

OPENS APRIL 15

WARRANT AT ALL AGES AND ADULTS

THE MOST AMAZING STORY OF
SURVIVAL, FRIENDSHIP
AND ADVENTURE EVER TOLD.



Directed by Ron Howard. Starring Paul Walker, Jason Patric, and the rest of the cast. The movie is about a group of husky dogs that survive a plane crash in Antarctica.



SANDARA Park

By Mel Fok

Sandara Park, the 21-year-old singer, has lost her grip on her career. She has been in the music industry for over a year, but her career has been slow. She has released two albums, but neither has been a success. She has also been in several movies, but none have been successful. She is now looking for a new direction in her career.

Facial

As a contestant on ABC's "The Contender," Sandara Park was a success. She was the first Asian woman to win the show. She was also the first Asian woman to be named "Miss America." She has since become a popular figure in the entertainment industry. She has released two albums, but neither has been a success. She has also been in several movies, but none have been successful. She is now looking for a new direction in her career.

She has since become a popular figure in the entertainment industry. She has released two albums, but neither has been a success. She has also been in several movies, but none have been successful. She is now looking for a new direction in her career.

Repackaged

She has since become a popular figure in the entertainment industry. She has released two albums, but neither has been a success. She has also been in several movies, but none have been successful. She is now looking for a new direction in her career.



Mix a style-packed catwalk extravaganza with an electrifying live performance by P!nk and you've got the essence of MTV Fashionably Loud - Asia's first ever in Singapore.

Catch it all on MTV Asia (Kahului 096 & Indochina 0463) at the following times:

12 April, Wednesday 20:30hrs
14 April, Friday 12:00hrs
16 April, Sunday 21:00hrs

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BUSINESS

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 Tel: (632) 863-8888 • Fax: (632) 863-8889 • Email: business@inquirer.com.ph



February exports rebound to \$3.3B

2-month shipments up 4.2% at \$6.56B

By Michelle Y. Reyes

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS GREW 9.8 percent in February from a year earlier to \$3.3 billion as electronics shipments picked up, the National Statistics Office announced yesterday.

Vehicle sales surged 38% in March

By Ronald W. Dominguez

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES GREW 38 percent in the first quarter, but March figures surged 38.5 percent due to a Japanese Civic sales that time the entry of imported used vehicles from the United States.

The Philippine Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (PAMV) said in a press report that there were 12,065 units sold between January and March, or 8.4 percent higher than the 11,172 units sold in the same period last year.

In March, local assemblers sold a total of 8,279 units compared with 6,087 in the same month of 2005.

Imports and PAMV said the increase was due to stable supply, promotions, and new sales delivery.

However, the groups said the improvement "ought" also be the start of a positive effect on industry sales given the Supreme Court ruling against imported used vehicles as they are, in sum, becoming more expensive of the local market for these vehicles.

They added that industry sales were very good momentum since the first problem on the 70 percent value added rule was resolved. The companies were full recovery of their input VAT credits from their business operations.

"Overall sales are also expected to increase in the coming months should stable political and economic conditions coupled with a

This year is increased from the 8.9 percent year-on-year contraction in January and the 0.2 percent decline in February 2005.

The February shipments lifted exports during the first two months of the year to \$6.56 billion, up 4.2 percent from last year.

Electronics exports, which accounted for 60.7 percent of total shipments in February

rose 30.2 percent to \$2.17 billion, the PAMV said. In January, electronics shipments were down 3.3 percent from a year ago.

Imports were the second top source of revenue in February with a combined share of the apparel and clothing accounts of 3.7 percent worth \$166.7 million, while exports of guitars and other writing sets reached \$100

with \$61.6 million, although this amount was down 5.3 percent year-on-year.

The top export market for the month was the United States, which bought \$622.24 million or 18.5 percent of the total, an increase of 17.9 percent from the February 2005 figure.

Export receipts from Japan, the No. 2 source, were down 1.2 percent.

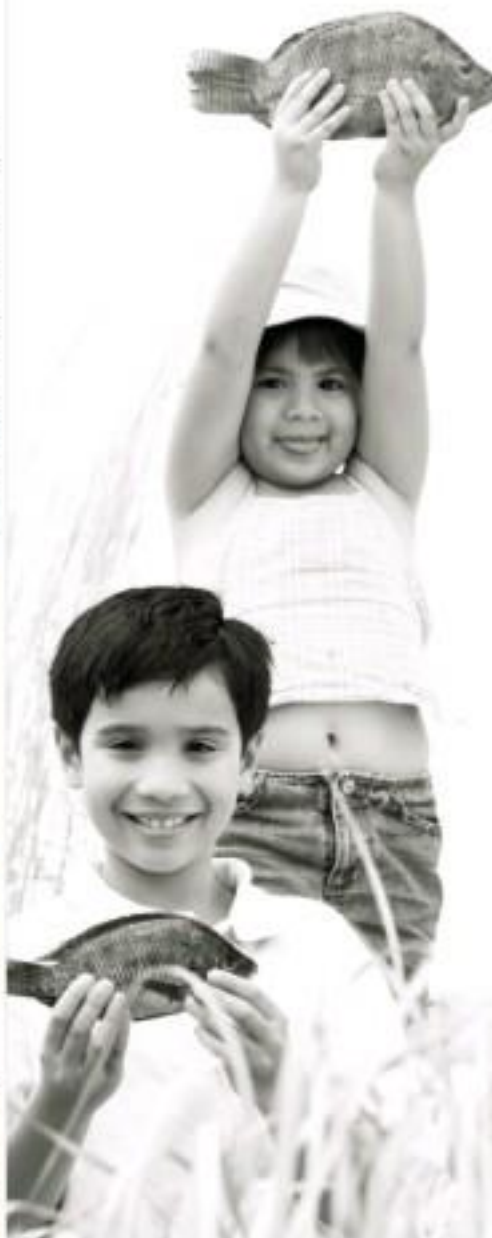
WHAT'S INSIDE



La Salle once scandal

UN urges freer flow of workers

ANAYALAND PHILIPPINES



You should have seen the size of the one that got away!! It gets bigger each time it is re-told!

Fish stories. Afternoons by the lake. Family. All this is home.



Family time. Endless summers.

CURRENCIES

USD: 100 = 78.12

EUR: 100 = 118.04

GOLD: \$1,100.00

STOCK MARKET

SENSEX: 10,000

NIFTY: 1,000

Bargain-hunting lifts stocks

SENSEX: 10,000

NIFTY: 1,000

ANAYALAND
 PHILIPPINES
 100% COTTON
 100% COTTON
 100% COTTON

SEC opposing TPG proposal

Pre-need plan-to-equity swap seen unfair to clients

By Elizabeth L. Sander

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION is opposing the plan of pre-need firm TPG Corp. to suspend payments of its obligations to holders of open-ended education plans.

The plan contained in the consent filed by the Office of the Solicitor General, the SEC stated, with the Mutual Investors Fund of New York.

The SEC proposed the liquidation of TPG if there were either open-ended education plans or stockholders.

The SEC, citing the concerns between the company and its plan holders, said TPG should suspend its obligations.

"These plans cannot be voluntarily suspended without the consent of the plan holders. The proposed liquidation, if approved, will seriously violate the contractual rights of

contractors. As such, it cannot be entered on the public who do not consent to it," the SEC said.

The SEC said that TPG's proposed open-ended plan, as the plan of its liquidation, was not intended for regulatory approval despite its offering under public.

The plan calls for the conversion of pre-need plans into equity, which the SEC found disadvantageous to the plan holders.

"The plan has the right to receive distributions but not to make any obligation to have their investments converted into shares of stock by force and against their will," he said, who would want to invest in a pre-need company.

TPG has outstanding and liquidated open-ended plans worth \$1.5 billion out of the total of \$2.5 billion of P-15 value as of December 2004.

Open-ended education plans offered to cover tuition for the beneficiary's education of the student. The SEC stated the sale of these plans in 2002 after the plan was terminated was a violation.

The SEC stated that based on TPG's financial statements as of the fourth quarter ending December 2005, TPG's liabilities exceeded its liquid assets.

Since 1995, TPG has also failed to comply with SEC rules regarding pre-need plans.

In 2005, TPG issued a plan of a pre-need SEC liquidation proposal hoping that in case, all its trust fund beneficiaries would be adequately protected.

The SEC, however, said that on the first part of the proposal, TPG intended to liquidate its in monthly payments. It had stopped paying them in 2005.

Further, the SEC also found that TPG had issued more education plans than what was approved and had continued granting cash advances to its affiliates despite its trust fund shortfalls.

TPG argued in letters to the SEC that its alleged over-issuance of plans was caused by the commission after TPG paid premiums. It added to its trust fund deposits for education fee status contributions of \$2 million. It further said that the delays in its deposits for its plan that failed was due to long standing accounts from TPG's liquidation.

ing income for domestic households 13 percent last year to P-15.1 billion due to offshore asset management firms.

This year, San Miguel's Philippine beer operations continued to expand, adding new plants in provinces as prime locations for San Miguel Beer in a commercial center for 100,000 residents, including San Miguel Beer.

Other major value-added products included for its domestic beer brand were San Miguel's ownership of the Philippine Mountain Side Championship for 2006 held in Marikina, and the San Miguel Beer Beer that concluded in San Miguel Beer.

San Miguel beer sales up 8%

DOMESTIC BEER SALES OF SAN MIGUEL Corp., the country's largest brewer, grew 8 percent to P7.79 billion in the first two months, boosted by more aggressive marketing campaign and brand building.

The company said in its disclosure in the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that operating income for January and February rose 16 percent to P1.69 billion from last year.

In 2005, domestic beer revenue grew 10 percent to P90.3 billion, reflecting a price increase in February last year. Sales volume in 2005 declined 2 percent to 179 million cases because of self-consumer demand.

Despite the increase in domestic sales, operating

income for domestic beer rose 13 percent last year to P6.21 billion due to offshore asset management firms.

This year, San Miguel's Philippine beer operations continued to expand, adding new plants in provinces as prime locations for San Miguel Beer in a commercial center for 100,000 residents, including San Miguel Beer.

Other major value-added products included for its domestic beer brand were San Miguel's ownership of the Philippine Mountain Side Championship for 2006 held in Marikina, and the San Miguel Beer Beer that concluded in San Miguel Beer.

February exports ...

Exports for the month were down 11.4 percent from the year earlier to \$540.53 million, or 14.5 percent of February average.

Other top export destinations during the month included Netherlands, \$206.4 million; China, \$170.67 million; Singapore, \$134.13 million; Hong Kong, \$123.77 million; Malaysia, \$116.25 million; Japan, \$117.09 million; Thailand, \$103.97 million; and Australia, \$103.87 million.

While economic officials remained upbeat about the export revival, private economists expect growth this year to be subdued.

Senato Arroyo, trade director for policy planning, earlier said global demand for electronics had softened last year and was expected to improve this year.

But the Department Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), earlier said rising for the export economic policies and began to cut value-added in export goods target for 2006 to 4 percent from the original 10 percent due to the adverse effect of exchange rates on exports.

The DBCC said that the export economic policies compared with previous years.

Raymond Huang, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP), yesterday said exports would likely remain in only 5.6 percent this year due to the expected softening of demand in the United States.

Huang said the predicted slowdown in the US economy had led to a high current account deficit, already at 7 percent of gross domestic product, which may force the Federal Reserve to implement another increase in interest rates.

As interest rates increased, it would compete from foreign currencies and export-oriented industries. This, in turn, can affect demand for imported products such as electronics.

The economy of Japan, the Philippines' second-largest export destination, is also expected to slow down this year. The world and other developed countries are the Philippines' export growth, according to the 2006 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific that was launched yesterday.

Japan is likely to grow by only 2 percent this year, a slowdown from the 1.5 percent recorded last year, the survey said.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE				
Quarterly Performance (in millions of pesos)				
2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
San Miguel Beer				
Revenue	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,500
Operating Income	200	250	300	350
Net Income	150	200	250	300
San Miguel Cement				
Revenue	800	900	1,000	1,100
Operating Income	150	200	250	300
Net Income	100	150	200	250
San Miguel Energy				
Revenue	500	600	700	800
Operating Income	100	150	200	250
Net Income	80	120	160	200
San Miguel Paper				
Revenue	300	350	400	450
Operating Income	60	75	90	105
Net Income	50	65	80	95
San Miguel Real Estate				
Revenue	200	250	300	350
Operating Income	40	50	60	70
Net Income	30	40	50	60
San Miguel Hotels				
Revenue	100	120	140	160
Operating Income	20	25	30	35
Net Income	15	20	25	30
San Miguel Media				
Revenue	150	180	210	240
Operating Income	30	35	40	45
Net Income	25	30	35	40
San Miguel Telecommunications				
Revenue	400	450	500	550
Operating Income	80	90	100	110
Net Income	70	80	90	100
San Miguel Logistics				
Revenue	250	300	350	400
Operating Income	50	60	70	80
Net Income	40	50	60	70
San Miguel Services				
Revenue	180	220	260	300
Operating Income	35	45	55	65
Net Income	30	40	50	60
San Miguel Investments				
Revenue	120	150	180	210
Operating Income	25	30	35	40
Net Income	20	25	30	35
San Miguel Other				
Revenue	80	100	120	140
Operating Income	15	20	25	30
Net Income	12	15	20	25



Notice of Regular Annual Stockholders' Meeting

April 27, 2006, 2:30 p.m.

Rigodon Ballroom, The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Makati City

To all Stockholders

Please take notice that the 2006 annual stockholders' meeting of SM Investments Corporation will be held on April 27, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom, The Peninsula Manila Hotel, Makati City. The proposed agenda of the meeting is set forth below:

AGENDA

- Call to order
- Declaration of notice and quorum
- Approval of minutes of the special meeting of stockholders held on July 15, 2005
- Presentation of the President's Report
- General ratification of the acts of the Board of Directors and the management from the date of the last annual stockholders' meeting up to the date of this meeting
- Election of directors for 2006 - 2007
- Appointment of external auditors
- Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the end of trading hours of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on March 28, 2006 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at such meeting and any adjournment thereof.

Pasig City, March 8, 2006.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[Sig.]

EMMANUEL C. PARRAS

Corporate Secretary

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

BUSINESS

UN urges freer flow of workers

Relaxing laws on movement seen to aid developing nations

By Michelle Y. Reyes

AN ARMY OF UNITED NATIONS IN support of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is urging efforts toward freeing the flow of workers among member countries, stressing that the potential economic benefits to be gained may be enough to lift many developing countries like the Philippines.

"The liberalization of movement of persons has an important development dimension, and countries like the Philippines that have a good base of skilled workers could benefit from trade liberalization," said economist George Haggard, speaking before the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) during the release

of its 2006 Economic and Social Survey of Asia.

Haggard said the proposed liberalization of the movement of persons has been deployed in the WTO agenda by several states. Although there is a need to ease the level of security and international threats of terrorism, Haggard said Escap would still want to pursue the need to liberalize economic employment.

Despite past economic crises, especially developed states, to induce investment in job creation, Haggard said.

He explained that economic crises have led to growth stagnation and economic growth of host countries, as workers are not permitted to find better income opportunities elsewhere.

High economic institutions themselves will probably either say decline in economic growth, Haggard added.

He added that some developing countries, such as those in the Pacific, are particularly dependent on workers' remittances to support economic growth.

The \$214 billion in remittance remittances that flowed into the Philippines last year accounted for 22.7 percent of the country's gross domestic product growth, Haggard said.

Other countries that benefited from high economic remittances last year were India, with \$22.7 billion; China, \$21.3 billion; and Thailand, \$14 billion.

Haggard said that the liberalization of the movement of persons would help bring workers' remittances, address the

problem of most trade-down effect of economic growth on employment.

In the 2006 Economic and Social Survey, Haggard said that while economic growth normally reduces the level of unemployment, "better trade policies" containing economic liberalization to growth and employment cannot always reduce unemployment.

Should the liberalization of the movement of persons adopted by the WTO, Haggard said, labor productivity and domestic economic growth, especially among developing countries, would be boosted.

He said Escap is likewise calling on governments to undertake measures that will reduce the immigration costs of sending workers overseas.

S&P assigns B+ rating to JG Summit

By Richard L. Sanchez

JO SUMMIT BUILDING INC. OF THE Gokongwei family commands a solid outlook from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, according to an analysis of the credit rating firm.

S&P credit analyst Nancy Koh pointed out in a statement that the stable outlook was due to expectations that JG Summit's core subsidiaries would continue to prosper from "well-defined market positions in their respective industry segments."

Also, S&P said it assigned a "B+" corporate credit rating to JG Summit. It likewise assigned a "B+" rating to the company's \$400 million in commercial notes due in 2012. The notes were issued in January by JGSP Philippines Ltd., a special purpose vehicle wholly owned by JG Summit.

Koh said the B+ rating by JG Summit reflected long-term financial risk, linked with the company's expansion and that of its subsidiaries to new construction and all-time positions.

JG Summit is involved in various sectors including financial services through Universal Banking Corp., property development through Robinsons Land Corp., telecommunications through Digital Telecommunications, Phils., Inc., and airlines through Cebu Pacific.

The outlook does reflect the expectation that the group's liquidity position can be stable. It is expected that the group's cash will be sufficient, and that it will maintain a continued discipline in investment portfolio, S&P said.

What counts is the rating by JG Summit is the high level of management expertise and company, which has managed credit and supply and advance foreign exchange transactions, Koh said.

"These weaknesses are, however, offset by the company's continued financial risk that is primarily made up of long-term loans, however, from information through its subsidiaries and affiliates, and it is creditworthy in nature," she said.

NDC to bankroll Mindanao airport

By Daniel L. Luman

THE TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINALS WILL finance bankroll the new Mindanao Development Co. (NDC) to improve the airport project that is expected to improve conditions in northern Mindanao.

Speaking to representatives of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) Assistant Secretary Ruben C. Calalang said that up to \$500 million will be needed from the NDC to fund the initial phase of the Legazpi airport project.

"This will be a major financing tool," he said, explaining that this is apart from the \$100 million in equity which the DOTC has already provided for the project.

The Legazpi airport in Mindanao is expected to be used as a replacement for the Cagayan de Oro (CDO) Linao Airport, which is now heavily dependent on government support.

In particular, Legazpi—despite its proximity to Cagayan de Oro—is situated on a plateau, and bankroll on its ability to receive

passenger traffic, making it difficult for larger aircraft to fly to it.

DOTC reports the project to cost as much as \$1.5 billion.

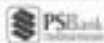
Calalang said that the planned legazpi airport, on the other hand, will be built on a plain 20 kilometers outside Cagayan de Oro. The latter airport will not have the last infrastructure project.

He added that the airport will have a runway of sufficient length to be classified as an international airport, although it will likely be used mostly as a regional hub for northern Mindanao.

Calalang said the bidding for the legazpi airport project will start soon, and will likely take a year to complete and then start to complete.

Annual construction of the airport will start in the first quarter of next year, and will cost less than \$100 million.

Construction of the new airport will start in the first quarter of next year with President Binay's approval to start the construction.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual stockholders meeting of the company will be held on April 21, 2006, Tuesday, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 177 Pasay Drive, Pasay City, Philippines. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes of the previous stockholders meeting held on April 21, 2005;
2. Approval of the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2005;
3. Election of directors and members of the Board of Directors;
4. Election of members of the Board of Directors;
5. Approval of the annual report;
6. Any other business.

Any stockholder entitled to the meeting is requested to attend and vote. Any stockholder who cannot attend the meeting is requested to authorize a representative to attend and vote on his behalf. The representative must be a stockholder of the company and must be duly authorized by the stockholder.

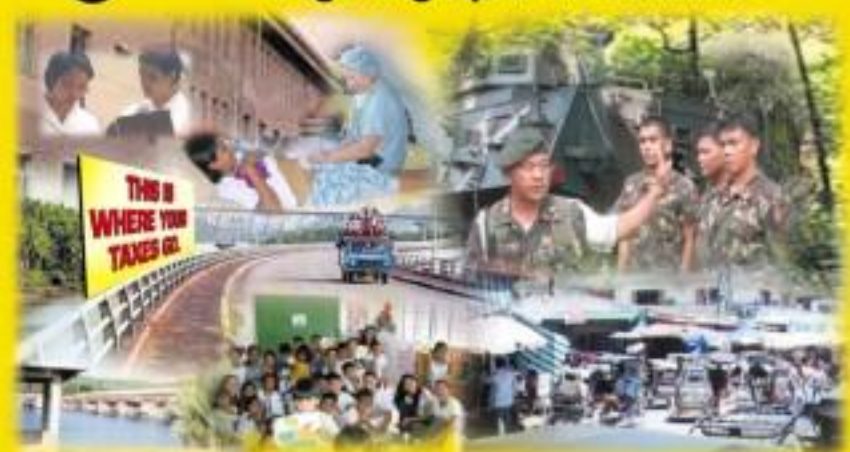
Notice is hereby given that the annual stockholders meeting of the company will be held on April 21, 2006, Tuesday, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 177 Pasay Drive, Pasay City, Philippines.

PSBank
Financial Services



MAGBAYAD NG TAMANG BUWIS

bago ang April 17 deadline.



Call BIR Hotline (02) 981-8888
or visit www.bir.gov.ph for assistance.

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KICK OUT GOUT!!!

It's a fact that gout is a painful condition that can be treated with the help of a doctor. But you can also prevent it by taking the right steps. For more information, call 1-800-888-8888 or visit www.gout.com.ph

LIFE STYLE

Editor: Chris Bernal-Fernandez
Chief of Correspondents: Paul Ponce

MAGBAYAD NG TAMANG BUWIS

Magbayad April 17 deadline
5 DAYS TO GO

FASHION FREAKS SPECIAL

Fashion fever!



Point, click, bravo!

Seven student photographers take hundreds of shots at the Philippine Fashion Week. Turn to page C5 for our favorites

LAST WEEK'S PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK wasn't just starting for models, designers, brands, professional photographers and fashion fans. It was also a special time for seven young student photographers, who were invited to capture the show with their lenses.

Fab femmes in the Queen City

Text and photos by Bianca Camanol
26U Correspondent

FOR MANY INKNOVABLE CEBUANO, Manila Fashion Week was the place to go recently with the Cebu branch of the event.

The branch had a fashion show featuring the spring/summer collection of these brands: Sui to brands such as Salvatore Ferragamo, Isaac Mizrahi, Oscar de la Renta, Vera Wang, Justin, Martha & Spencer, Polo Ralph Lauren, Laundry by the River, and Springfield. The models showed down the runway in midday heat. Manila's latest fashion collection, courtesy of Beauty Inc.

And from popular to chic, Manila also saw the latest collection of Cebu's most popular and high-profile ladies to represent the brand.



2006 Quarterly beauty editor Cheryl Carol and TV host Jaja Dela Cruz

Temperatures rose at the 26U headquarters as we dove headfirst into the fun and crazy world of fashion. We sent troops out to cover different fashion fests—from last week's Philippine Fashion Week, to 26U's stylish

show in Cebu to Singapore's big Fashion Festival. Hot models, stunning collections, dressing tips, eye candies—we have them all here in our Fashion Frights special.

one-on-one with Carrie Underwood. This American Idol, whose hit "Jesus Take the Wheel" topped the Billboard Country Singles chart for weeks, has a special message for everyone this Holy Week.

Parties too Hotty!

Red Hot **Slinky** **UNO** **BORACAY SOUND 2**

Parties for all Addict Mobile subscribers!

Date	Event	Location
April 12 to 14	Shady Property (B) Boracay	May 10th
April 15	Shady (B) Boracay	May 10th
April 16 to 17	Red Hot Property (B) Boracay	May 10th
April 18	Red Hot Property (B) Boracay	May 10th
April 19	Red Hot Property (B) Boracay	May 10th
April 20	Red Hot Property (B) Boracay	May 10th
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April 28	Red Hot Property (B) Boracay	May 10th
April 29	Red Hot Property (B) Boracay	May 10th
April 30	Red Hot Property (B) Boracay	May 10th

Text HEAT to 209

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Jay Magbanua from De La Salle University got his jumpstart when a photographer neighbor gave him a crash course on the profession. One of his major influences is a photographer Jay Javier.



Fashion photography combines two of my passions—fashion and visual communication,' says Ronald Carlo Balanza, of UP Diliman, who discovered photography while taking it as a class requirement. As a budding photographer, RC felt a bit of the pressure but remained resolute.



Point, click, bravo!

From page D1

gained and given the chance to do better at the same.

Amidst today's cyber chat DCCB, the youngsters took their work to a world of computers and satellites, broad and wide regions, backstage action and backstage drama.

Get your eyes fixed on dark nights. This might be looking to the future of fashion photography.



Catherine Joy Aquino loves mixing portrait and fashion photography and continues to hone her skills through work at the Student Publication Office of De La Salle College.



of St. Benilde. She sees photography as an endless learning process.



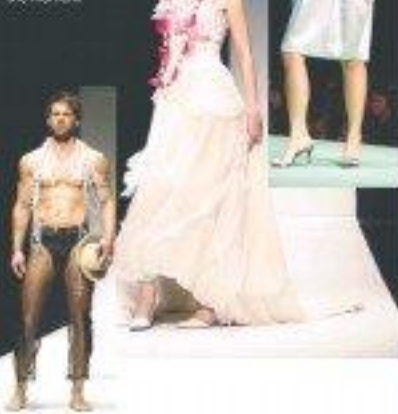
Ateneo Raphael Atienza or RA, began his love affair with the camera when he spotted an SLR lying around at home and began tinkering with it. He admires the work of a Latin American photographer whose pictures he describes as bold and surreal at the same time.



Deborah Maria Ganan of the University of Santo Tomas admires Ben Eustacio for his solemn, stand-out photographs that carry a uniquely Filipino flavor.



De La Salle University's Isabella Samonte firmly believes that pictures should tell a story and that the good ones convey emotion to those who view them. Fashion photography for her is very conceptual, it's about creating the moment.



Charles Custodio from De La Salle College of St. Benilde admires Septa Dean Ryan, a former aeronautical engineer who now faithfully photographs the world's vanishing tribes. Charles takes an avant-garde approach to his photos and feels lucky to be given the chance to experience participating in a big event, learning how to conduct myself and producing good pictures for Philippine Fashion Week.



WHEN I HEAR THE NAME Carrie, I am reminded of the blood-drenched pages of the '80s Stephen King horror classic. Two decades later, that Carrie's coffin has been nailed shut. A new Carrie has emerged.

The new Carrie is an ode to a Carrie Eschmied, last year's "American Idol" winner. Roxy's debut of *Symphony in Scars* is equal parts rock, indie, and pop, and the album is

For the *Life* cover, this idea has been making new history. Consider this: she has sold more than 25.4 million copies in her first week of release, making her the highest-selling new artist (before SoundScan began) and also earning the distinction of being the highest-charting hip-hop female "American Idol" star in her hometown. The *Billboard* 200

Applauding of the race, the reasons for this ranking may have been the double whammy of the fact that his "Garden of Eden" was unimpaired—indeed, "Some Take the Wheel" depicts its country as unscathed, even better, has been doing quite well, considering that Christian America usually is not warmly received in the rest of the world. The book also suggests that the world is not as bad as it seems, at least in the past year's "The Foundation of the City."

However, this people's postlude for waiting the heavy ax around the neck of Michael Ondaatje is a rare and welcome collection of reasons. Erika Ingvalds, MFA's creative writing editor, makes several good points about the way the book was written. "The book is a collection of essays," she says. "Mostly, we're seeing what each author has to say about this. I want time to drop, then they go on for seven rows. I want to know how they got it all mapped when I started writing a story around my work in this. I just had under when I knew this I got provoked. Sometimes I would be like, 'I don't want to be a part of this story, but I see all these things and I want to be a part of it.'"

It's about somebody who's driving "low on both octane and gasoline, but going way too fast." And then before she knows it, she just crashes! And then Gwyneth says, "Dustin, take the wheel; take it from my hands, use it until I don't have any more." Predicting us, in 1941, the two most famous... "It has been quite some time since Gary [it's "Tide Man" of the Earth] had a follow-up, so I think this is it. Something for young people to ponder on... just, no halflights, please! Use with lyrics as read that it can be about some "harmful, selfish, but smart, or even true."

Reflexe sind alles "Idiot"

Before "American Idol," she was a college taking up journalism, then knew her field wasn't meant, as she has been calling her "American Idol" magazine and she intends to pursue it now as she is busy with her musical career. Her life now is very different from the life she used to lead. "Every aspect of my life is totally different... I wake up and get ready for shows and do a lot of interviews. I do a lot of touring around the US. There's nothing like it that I don't enjoy" she is also a DJ for MTV, the MTV's Greatest Hits.

While attending the annual dog show outdoors at her favorite (he probably assumed, "I have a particular favorite too! I have a strong feeling that it will be a guy who will bring home the title") indoor only a preference for country music, she said, "It's an outdoor place, and I want to bring it in a different environment, and give it another dimension. People should be open and willing."

Her message is her last love "please keep it. It's living proof that you can be completely free, maintain joy and turn it all of a sudden achieve all your dreams the next." And her final words to



YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL. Because she lets 'em take the wheel?



Tim Lincecum



WEARING their
laces around their necks

 Springer

heel

Carrie Underwood
New Tracks

FROM ONE SIGNED TO ANOTHER
Carrie Underwood is capturing our just "new" hearts.

My other source of inspiration, book author Gail, said, "Choosing surrender is a deliberate act of personal freedom. It means waking up, releasing your fear and, studying your path."

To the letter-writer, take the time to stop back and listen to yourself, search deep down, find your faith once again, and then reframe it wisely. Welcome to the world of your life. Blessings to you, my friend.

 MOTOROLA

...and the ...

100

MOTO

fully loaded. now with
flexible memory and a 7.2 megapixel camera.
The new Windows 64GB 3G. It's even slayer.



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